

# INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S AND WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION LOCAL 12

2064 SHERIDAN AVENUE

NORTH BEND, OREGON 97459



PHONE: 756-4188  
756-4189  
FAX: 756-3851



PRESIDENT *Marvin Caldera*  
SEC.-TREAS. *Jennifer Gumm*  
*mike Forbes*

January 16, 2007

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House;

Western forest states have relied on Forest Service timber payments since 1908, on BLM timber payments since 1937. They are the foundation of our county public law enforcement and health services. Sheriff's offices, district attorney staff, public health and transportation all rely on these payments. Coos County has almost a 50 percent general fund shortfall due to the expiration of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-

Determination Act of 2000, (public Law 106-393) at the end of the last federal fiscal year.

The loss to public schools in Oregon is about \$33 million, to county general funds \$98 million, and to county roads \$103 million. Although some have been critical that Oregon receives the most under P.L. 106-393, please recall that Oregon lost over 10,000 jobs and hundreds of wood products mills closed with the shut-down of federal lands management starting in 1991. These losses have cost communities their former vibrancy, closed schools and cut dock working jobs due to loss cargo and manufacturing. These have had negative effects on county public services in reduced property taxes, and to Oregon state services due to reduced income tax payments.

We need immediate help from Congress. If, due primarily to Endangered Species Act, millions of acres in Oregon are to be managed primarily for wildlife habitat, please do not turn your back on us, the human inhabitants of this region.

We write to you for help today because, in Coos County, about 100 jobs will have to be cut to make payroll equal the reduction of county forest payments. These are mostly Union jobs, typically higher paying than similar jobs in the private sector. These jobs also come with health insurance, which is needed to

keep our local hospital district in the black. Ours is a public hospital, which must operate at least break even to remain open to help those who cannot afford to pay. Ours is not a wealthy county. We have a large share of our population living below or near the federal poverty level.

Please do all you can to join the entire Oregon Congressional delegation in passing a reauthorization bill of P.L. 106-393, to keep our community healthy and our working people on the job.

Sincerely,

*Marvin Caldera*  
Marvin Caldera  
ILWU Local 12 President